REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 1 through 4 were pending in the Application. The Examiner rejected all claims. Claims 1 - 4 have been amended and remain pending in this Application. Applicant traverses the rejections below.

I. Traversal of the Rejections over the Cited Art

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 - 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by UK Patent Application No. GB 2202104A to Prendin et al (Prendin). Applicant traverses this rejection below.

A. The Present Invention

The present invention describes a technique for a pointing system in a graphical user interface which corrects position information of a hot spot included in an image template to a coordinate system of an image and repositions and outputs it in a click position.

According to one aspect of the invention, a coordinate obtained from a pointing device is compared to a template image. The best matching template and its position on the image is located. A final pointing position is then calculated based on the located position on the image and position correction information associated with the template.

According to another aspect of the invention, a template is registered and dynamically generated. An image area from an overall image is selected as the subject of a template. The selected image area is stored as a template image. A point in the image area is selected and then

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stored for association with the corresponding template image as position correction information for the template image.

B. Differences between the Claims and the Cited Art

Prendin discloses a technique for continuously detecting the distance between equipment and a fixed or moving point. Four storage devices alternately store successive images (video signals) from two synchronized video cameras. A cursor is displayed on one image. A tracking computer searches for the new position of a designated point in a successive image from the same camera by comparing an area or window in the neighborhood of the cursor and analogous windows in the successive image. A distance measuring computer detects, by means of comparison of windows, the point corresponding to the new position of the point in the corresponding image from the other camera. The difference in position between these points gives the desired distance value. Prendin is not directed to correcting position information for a selected point in a graphical user interface (GUI). Prendin does not create a template; it is more than a stretch to allege that one of the four stored images fits the definition of a template as per the subject claims.

Very clearly, Prendin is not directed to the same subject matter as the present invention, and the problem solved by Prendin is quite different than the problem solved by the present invention.

Independent Claim 2 recites a system "for registering a template which dynamically generates a template". In reviewing Prendin, it is clear that Prendin does not address such subject matter. No template is registered, nor is there dynamic generation of a template. Specific differences between Claim 2 and Prendin will now be discussed.

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Claim 2 recites (a) "means for selecting an image area from an image to be a subject of a template". Relative to this subject matter, a passage from page 5, lines 30-31 is cited. However, this passage (in its entirety) states "Figure 3 shows the comparative areas, or comparative windows, close to the reference window, analyzed on the following frame or image shot by the same telecamera by the equipment of Figure 1, in order to show the new position of the point." The elements illustrated in Figure 3 are described in a passage which begins on page 8, line 31, which states that "[t]he tracking of the reference point is carried out by the computer comparing the above said reference window 29 stored inside the working storage 28 to comparative areas or windows 31, 32, 33,..., having the same dimensions as of the reference window 29, contained inside the left-hand storage 12 and relevant to a successive image or frame". A cited passage in on page 8, lines 16-17 indicates that a small area 29 around a point selected by an operator is copied into working storage 28, and that the point is shown by a small cross, as shown in Figure 2.

There is no discussion of a means for selecting an image area, as per Claim 2. A point is selected, and the area around the point is copied into storage. Nor is there a discussion of an image area being from an image. Nor is there a discussion of the selected image area being the subject of a template. The selected area 29 is apparently used to calculate a distance, not act as a template for position correction. Figure 3 shows a number of windows having identical dimensions. No image is selected from the area of the unnumbered square of Figure 3. A point is selected to be the subject of a calculation of distance. Neither the reference window 29 nor the comparative areas 31-33 are referred to as a template, and none meet the definition of a template. Clearly, this subject matter (a) of Claim 2 is not taught, suggested or disclosed by Prendin.

Claim 2 also recites (b) "means for storing said image area as a template image". Relative to this subject matter, a passage from page 5, line 4 is cited. This line states that "the other storage and selected within neighbours close to". The relevance of this jumble of words to the cited subject matter is unclear. The sentence in which this line is contained is about video signals "shot by each of both telecameras" which "are stored in succession into either of two

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storages per each telecamera". So what is stored are video signals shot by a telecamera. In contrast, the Office Action alleges that this line from Prendin discloses that "the comparative areas or windows are stored in other storage". Actually, video signals are stored. Four different sets of video signals are stored. None is selected. No selected image is stored as a template image. Further, it is not clear how this meshes with the allegatoins discussed above that the window 29 is alleged to be a template. Are these four sets of successive video signals the template? Or is it the area/window 29? Accordingly, Applicant submits that this subject matter (b) of Claim 2 is not taught, suggested or disclosed by Prendin.

Claim 2 also recites (c) "means for selecting a point in said image area...". Relative to this subject matter, the Office Action cites "the center points shown in figure 3 for comparative windows 31, 32, 33 [which] are selected by means of a joystick". In Prendin, these windows 31, 32, 33 are discussed on page 9, lines 3 and 20-21, and there is no discussion of a point in these comparative windows being selected. A joystick is discussed on page 5, line 1 of Prendin, where it is described that a cursor is positioned by means of a joystick. A selected point is found on page 4, line 16 of Prendin, apparently referring to the point on page 4, line 13, which is a point for which the distance from the point to the measuring equipment (telecameras) is continuously measured. There is no indication in Prendin that the joystick is used to select the Prendin's 'selected point'. Prendin's selected point is a point to which distance is continuously measured, not a point on a template that will be used as position correction information, as discussed below.

Claim 2 also recites (d) "means for storing said selected point as position correction information associated with said template image." Relative to this subject matter, the passage from page 5, line 4 is again cited. Applicants do not understand how this one line teaches both "means for storing said selected image area as a template image" (subject matter (b), as discussed above) and "means for storing said selected point as position correction information associated with said template image". As discussed above, the line is in a sentence directed to the storage of video signals. This sentence about the storage of video signals does not begin to address means for storing a selected point as position correction information. Applicants can find no discussion

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of the use of position correction information in Prendin.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 2 patentably distinguishes over Prendin.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were also rejected as being anticipated by Prendin under the same rational for all three claims.

Claim 1 recites "from the position on said image and position correction information associated with the template, means for calculating a final pointing position." Relative to part of this subject matter, The Office Action states that "the center points of windows 31, 32, 33 correspond to the claimed position correction information associated with the template". Unfortunately, no support for this proposition is provided and Applicant can find no support for this proposition in Prendin. As discussed above, the windows 31, 32, 33 are only discussed in two places on page 9 of Prendin. There is no discussion of the center point of any of these windows in either location. Further, there is no discussion of position correction information anywhere in Prendin. And there is certainly no disclosure in Prendin that the center point of the windows 31, 32, 33 represents position correction information. Prendin is directed to determining a distance, not a system for pointing using position correction information, as per Claim 1.

Further, the Office Action states that Prendin discloses another part of this subject matter, the "means for calculating a final pointing position." This subject matter is allegedly found on page 9, lines 30-31 of Prendin. This passage states that "[t]his process enables the new true position to be found very quickly, what the movable reference point has come to during the period of two successive frames or images." This not the same thing as the subject matter from Claim 1. No final pointing position is calculated. The Prendin process determines the distance to a position or location being viewed by a camera of some type. Prendin's distance determining process is not performed based on position correction information associated with a template. There is simply no way one could derive from Prendin the present invention's claimed technique

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for pointing in a graphical user interface by using position correction information and an associated image as a template. Prendin does not teach, suggest or disclose the subject matter of Claim 1; rather, Prendin discloses a technique for determining distance. There is no discussion of "correction" in Prendin. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended Claim 1 and thus Claims 3 and 4 patentably distinguish over Prendin.

II. Summary

Applicant has presented technical explanations and arguments fully supporting his position that the pending claims contain subject matter which is not taught, suggested or disclosed by Prendin. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present Application is in a condition for Allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

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